

Message Text

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R 241159 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8188

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 VIENNA 2365

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 23, 1973

ALL OTHER MBFR CAPITALS BY POUCH

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. MEETING DEALT WITH SUBJECTS OF BILATERALS, WEEKLY CHAIRMAN' S REPORT, AND DISCUSSION OF US DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS ON HUNGARIAN ABEYANCE. KEY BILATERAL REPORTED WAS 22 MARCH EVENING MEETING ARRANGED BY US REP BETWEEN UK REP (THOMSON), FRG REP (RUTH) AND SOVIET REPS (KHLESTOV AND KVITSINSKIY). UK/ SOVIET DIALOGUE WAS REPORTED AS EXHAUSTIVE BUT DEVELOPED NO NEW GROUND AS BOTH SIDES ARTICULATELY RESTATED STANDARD POSITION. KVITSINSKIY EMPHASIZED TWO POINTS IN HIS EXCHANGE WITH FRG REP: (1) SOVIET UNION WAS INTERESTED
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PRIMARILY IN REDUCTIONS OF US/ SOVIET FORCES AND FORCES OF BOTH GERMANY'S AND (2) " FINAL" SOVIET POSITION ON HUNGARIAN COULD CALL FOR A LIST OF 19 PARTICIPANTS, A LIST OF 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND AN UNCONTESTED AND NEUTRAL UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY WESTERN SIDE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO RE- OPEN THE PARTICIPATION ISSUE. DISCUSSION OF 19 AND 11 PROPOSAL WAS INITIATED BY US REP WHO REFERRED TO DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT DURING A RECENT QUADRILATERAL MEETING. OTHER BILATERAL CONTACTS BROUGHT INDICATIONS THAT EAST EUROPEAN STATES WERE NOT BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED BY SOVIETS ON DETAILS OF THE CURRENT PROBE. CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY AD HOC GROUP REPORT WAS DISCUSSED BY GROUP AND DISPATCHED (SEPTEL). IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE UNILATERAL STATEMENTS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE HUNGARIAN ABEYANCE, (SEPTEL) GENERAL CONSENSUS DEVELOPED THAT SUCH STATEMENTS, COULD BE USED FOR NEXT DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST. END SUMMARY

2. CHAIRMAN, (RUTKISH REP TULUMEN), OPENED 23 MARCH MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP WITH THREE POINT AGENDA: BILATERAL REPORTS, DISCUSSION OF WEEKLY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSED DRAFT OF UNILATERAL STATEMENTS ON HUNGARY'S ABEYANCE.

3. BILATERAL REPORTS

A. UK REP (THOMSON) REPORTED ON A JOINT MEETING ON THE EVENING OF 22 MARCH WITH SOVIET REPS (KHLESTOV AND KVITSINSKIY) AND UK, US AND FRG REPS. MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY US REP. UK REP REPORTED THAT HE HAD A LONG AND DIFFICULT EXCHANGE WITH KHLESTOV IN WHICH ALL OLD GROUND WAS REPELOVED AND NEITHER SIDE REVEALED ANY INDICATION OF CHANGE. UK REP EMPHASIZED THAT THE WEST HAD MOVED FROM 12 TO 11 ON DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND THAT NOW IT WAS THE EAST'S TURN TO MOVE FROM 8 TO 7 ON THE SPECIAL PARTICIPANT SIDE. KHLESTOV RESPONDED THAT HUNGARY WOULD HAVE TO BE A SPECIAL PARTICIPANT UNLESS ITALY WOULD BECOME A DIRECT PARTICIPANT. US REP ADDED THAT AS OBSERVER OF THIS EXCHANGE HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE FORCEFULNESS OF UK PRESENTATION AND HOPED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE SOVIETS. UK REP SAID HE DOUBTED THIS.

B. FRG REP (RUTH), REPORTING ON SAME MEETING, INDICATED THAT KVITSINSKIY HAD FOCUSED ON TWO KEY POINTS. IN THE FIRST, KVITSINSKIY DECLARED THAT THE USSR WAS INTERESTED IN US/ SOVIET FORCE REDUCTIONS FOR BUDGETARY REASONS ON THE SOVIET SIDE AND ALSO INTERESTED IN FORCE REDUCTIONS IN BOTH GERMANY'S. FRG REP ADDED THAT HIS OWN RE- EXAMINATION OF SOVIET STATEMENTS

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ON TROOP REDUCTIONS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS REVEALED THE SAME

PATTERN OF INTEREST IN REDCUTIONS OF SOVIET, US AND GERMAN FORCES. FRG REP FELT THIS CONVERSATION AGAIN UNDERLINED THE ALLIED NEED TO EMPHASIZE STABILIZING MEASURES AND A PHASE APPROACH TO RUDUCTIONS. AFTER US REP RAISED QUESTION, KVITSINSKIY ALSO TOLD FRG REP THAT " FINAL " SOVIET POSITION ON HUNGARIAN ISSUE WOULD BO TO LIST ALL 19 PARTICIPANTS, THE 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ACCOMPANIED BY A NEUTRAL, UNILATERAL, AND UNCON-TESTED WESTERN STATEMENT ON THE RIGHT TO RE- OPEN THE PARTICI-PATION ISSUE. IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY TO LIST EIGHT SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS BY NAME. FRG REP DECLINED TO DISCUSS THIS 19 AND 11 PROPOSAL FOR FEAR IT WOULD REVEAL SOME DEGREE OF ACCEPTABILITY TO THE WEST.

C. BELGIUM/ POLAND - BELGIUM REP (ADREAENSSEN) REPORTED A MEETING WITH POLISH REP (STRULAK). STRULAK HAD NOTED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER RESULTS OF QUADRILATERAL MEETINGS ON 20 AND 22 MARCH. HE SAID THAT IF PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE SOON, THE PUBLIC WOULD BEGIN TO LOOK AT MBFR AS JUST A SHAM. STRULAK POINTEDLY ASKED BELGIUM REP IF NAC MEETING OF 21 MARCH HAD CONSIDERED ANY NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS ON THE HUNGARIAN ISSUE. BELGIUM REP REPLIED THAT NAC WAS NOT RECONSIDERING WESTERN POSITION; SESSION HAD BEEN A ROUTINE ONE. STRULAK THEN TOOK STANCE THAT SOLUTION TO HUNGARIAN QUESTION WAS A MATTER OF SEMANTICS AND THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC A WAY WOULD SOON BE FOUND TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE WITHOUT SINGLING OUT HUNGARY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 VIENNA 2365

ALL OTHER MBFR CAPITALS BY POUCH

FROM US REP MBFR

D. CANADIAN, US, TURKISH AND GREEK REPS THEN REPORTED BRIEF BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH BULGARIANS AND ROMANIANS IN WHICH IT WAS INDICATED THAT EASTERN STATES WERE NOT BEING FULLY BRIEFED BY SOVIETS ON PROGRESS OF QUADRILATERAL MEETINGS. BULGARIAN DEPUTY REP (DICHEV) HAD NOTED TO GREEKS AT RECENT RECEPTION THAT HE THOUGHT CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE WAS AGREED AND WOULD EXCLUDE FLANK STATES. THIS WAS AFTER SOVIETS HAD SUGGESTED A NEW CHAIRMANSHIP FORMULATION THAT INCLUDED FLANK STATES DURING MEETING ON 20 MARCH. US REP OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS APPEARED TO PLAY THINGS VERY CLOSE TO THE VEST WITH THEIR ALLIES AND THUS NOT GET THEMSELVES LOCKED INTO POSITIONS THEY MAY LATER WANT TO CHANGE. US REP REPORTED THAT THE ROMANIAN REP HAD PUNPED HIM FOR DETAILS ON 22 MARCH QUADRILATERAL MEETING
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USING SHORT STOP IN VIENNA OF HIS MINISTER AS BASIS FOR HIS NEED TO KNOW.

4. CHAIRMAN' S REPORT. CHAIRMAN RAISED AS NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS THE WEEKLY REPORT TO THE NAC. THE REPORT WAS APPROVED AFTER SOME TEXTUAL CHANGES. THE US REP RECOMMENDED WORDING CHANGES TO INDICATE MORE CLEARLY THAT THE ALLIED REPS HAD SUGGESTED A VARIETY OF APPROACHES WITHIN THE NAC GUIDANCE, NONE OF WHICH HAD PROVED ACCEPTABLE TO DATE.

5. UNILATERAL STATEMENTS. THE CHAIRMAN THEN SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT UNILATERAL WESTERN AND HUNGARIAN STATEMENTS TABLED BY THE US COULD BE LEFT UNTIL THE MEETING OF 26 MARCH. THE US REP SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE VALUABLE FOR REPS TO GIVE INITIAL REACTIONS BECAUSE THE SOVIETS MIGHT RAISE THE QUESTION IN THE NEXT SESSION AND THE AD HOC GROUP SHOULD PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE FOR THE WESTERN EMISSARIES. THE NORWEGINA ACTING REP (KRISTIVIK) ASKED WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS. WAS THE GROUP TRYING TO DRAFT SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP MOVE THE QUESTION AHEAD OR WAS IT JUST TRYING TO KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY? HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE DRAFT HUNGARIAN STATEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST IN HIS PRESENT FORM. THE CHAIRMAN SAIS THAT EXPORING SUCH UNILATERAL STATEMENTS WAS

PART OF THE PROBING OPERATION. THEUS REP ADDED THT PURPOS
OF THE STATEMENTS WAS TO TRY VARIOUS PROCEDURAL VARIANTS OF
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NAC GUIDANCE TO SEE IF THEY WOULD BE MORE
ACCEPTABLE THAN AN AGREED STATEMENT WITH THE SAME CONTENT.

5. THE CANADIAN REP NOTED THAT, THE DAY BEFORE, THE NETHERLANDS
REP (QUARLES) HAD SUGGESTED THAT DURING THE NEXT SESSION WITH
THE EAST THE ALLIED REPS SHOULD FIRST SIT BACK AND AWAIT
EASTERN SUGGESTIONS. IF THIS IS THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP,
ALLIED DRAFTS OF UNILATERAL STATEMENTS SHOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE
AND USED ONLY OF THE OTHER SIDE RAISED THE QUESTION AND THEIR USE
SEEMED APPROPRIATE. THE US REP SAID THAT THE WEST HAD TO
LNOW WHAT ITS PREFERENCE WOULD BE IN THE WAY OF UNILATERAL
STATEMENTS IF THE OTHER SIDE RAISES THE ISSUE. THE WEST
MUST HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT GOOD DECLARATIONS WOULD LOOK LIKE.
THE CANADIAN REP SUGGESTED THAT AN INITIAL STATEMENT FROM
THE US OR NETHERLANDS REPS MIGHT HELP GET THE DISCUSSIONS
UNDERWAY. THE ITALIAN DEP REP (TALIANI) SAID TODAY' S DISCUSSION
SHOULD ONLY CONCERN UNILATERAL STATEMENTS AS ANOTHER WAY
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OF PUTTING THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION IN ABEYANCE.

7. THE US REP SAID THAT THERE WAS ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION TO
ASK ABOUT EMPLOYING UNILATERAL STATEMENTS AS A MEANS OF PUTTING
HUNGARY IN ABEYANCE, AND THAT WAS THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH
AN APPROACH WOULD PROTECT WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS. IT WAS
HIS FEELING THAT A GENERAL REFERENCE IN A STATEMENT MADE BY
THE ALLIES OR HUNGARY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUSION OF HUNGARY
IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS OR MEASURES WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF
PROTECTING SUCH INTERESTS. HE FELT THAT THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE
SOVIET FORCES IN HUNGARY WAS A POLITICAL ONE AIMED AT
ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. TO SPECIFY SECURITY ASPECTS IN UNILATERAL
STATEMENTS RATHER THAN THE MORE GENERAL CONCEPT OF INCLUSION
OF HUNGARY IN DECISIONS OR AGREED MEASURES COULD THEREFORE
STRIKE A NEURALGIC NERVE AND BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
THE APPROACH HE HAD DESCRIBED WOULD AVOID THIS DIFFICULTY
WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF WIDER
INVOLVEMENT OF HUNGARY THAN WOULD CERTAIN NONCIRCUMVENTION
APPROACHES.

8. THE NETHERLANDS REP BASICALLY AGREEING WITH THE US REP SAID
THAT HE PRSUMED THAT THE TWO UNILATERAL STATEMENTS WOULD
CONCEPTUALLY REPLACE THE CURRENT ABEYANCE TERMINOLOGY INCLUDED
IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF THE PROCEDURES PAPER. THE US REP NOTED THAT
THE ALLIED REPS HAD NEVER PUT FORWARD THE EXACT ABEYANCE
TERMINOLOGY OF THE PROCEDURES PAPER IN THE QUADRILATERAL SESSIONS,
BUT HAD ONLY PRESENTED THE CONCEPT. IN TERMS OF DEALING WITH
THE EAST, THE MATTER OF HOW ABEYANCE MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN

SPECIFIC TERMS REMAINED AN OPEN QUESTION. THE NETHERLANDS REP
SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS HAD SOME
INTERESTING SPECTS, PARTICULARLY INCLUSION OF THE CONCEPT
THAT THERE COULD BE VARYING DEGREES OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION.

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ALL OTHER MBFR CAPITALS BY POUCH

FROM US REP MBFR

HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEE THAT THE UNILATERAL STATEMENT APPROACH
MADE THE CONCEPT OF ABEYANCE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIETS.
HE THEN SAID, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THAT IF THE EAST ITSELF
SHOULD COME FORWARD WITH SOME NONCIRCUMVENTION APPROACH
TO THE HUNGARINA PROBLEM, BASED ON HUNGARY AS A SPECIAL
PARTICIPANT, THIS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE NAC FOR CONSIDER-
ATION. THE ALLIED REPS SHOULD NOT URGE OR ACCEPT SUCH AN
OUTCOME, BUT THEY COULD WITHIN THE TERMS OF THEIR GUIDANCE
FROM NAC, ELICIT SOVIET VIEWS ON IT.

9. THE ITALIAN DEP REP SAID THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE COMMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS REP REGARDING AN EASTERN NONCIRCUMVENTION PROPOSAL. THE NAC GUIDANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE A POSITION
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REGARDING NONCIRCUMVENTION TO BE PUT FORWARD TO THE EAST AND HIS GOVERNMENT' S POSITION REMAINED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE AND SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE CURRENT VIENNA TALKS. IT WAS FINE TO DISCUSS UNILATERAL STATEMENTS WHICH INCORPORATED THE PROCEDURAL ABEYANCE APPROACH, BUT IT WAS NOT WITHIN CURRENT NAC GUIDANCE TO DISCUSS NONCIRCUMVENTION WITH THE EAS IN SPECIFIC TERMS.

10 THE NETHERLANDS REP RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ONLY INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE OTHER SIDE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS. IF THEY DID, SUCH SUGGESTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE NAC FOR CONSIDERATION. THE US REP NOTED THAT THE DRAFT STATEMENTS HE HAD SUGGESTED WERE PRECISELY WITHIN THE INTENT OF THE NAC GUIDANCE. THE NETHERLANDS REP REITERATED THAT HE INTERPRETED THE ALLIED EFFORT AS BEING DIRECTED AT FINDING A WAY TO RESOLVE THE HUNGARIAN PROBLEM IN A WAY THAT PROTECTS WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVED THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE WEST WAS TO OBTAIN THE JURIDICAL BASIS TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF INCLUSION OF HUNGARY IN FUTURE MEASURES. THE US REP SUBSCRIBED TO THE NETHERLANDS REPS DEFINITION OF WHAT WAS REQUIRED TO PROTECT WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS, BUT THOUGHT THAT THESE INTERESTS COULD BEST BE PROTECTED IN A GENERAL APPROACH LIKE THAT INCORPORATED IN THE DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS. IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO SPECIFY WHAT SORT OF MEASURES WOULD BE NEEDED TO PREVENT EASTERN CIRCUMVENTION OF A FUTURE AGREEMENT. SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE NETHERLANDS REP AGREED THAT THE MORE GENERAL A FORMULA, THE BETTER, BUT REPEATED THAT IF THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD PROPOSE A NONCIRCUMVENTION APPROACH, THIS SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE NAC FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. THE ITALIAN REP REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT' S INSISTENCE THAT SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE POTENTIAL BUILDUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN HUNGARY SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE CURRENT TALKS IN VIENNA SHOULD RESOLVE THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION IN A PROCEDURAL MANNER. THE NETHERLANDS REP ADDED THAT HE WAS ONLY THINKING OF NONCIRCUMVENTION AS IT MIGHT RELATE TO THE AGENDA.

12. THE FRG REP REMARKED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW
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A SOVIET NONCIRCUMVENTION PROPOSAL WOULD LOOK AND HOW IT COULD BE ELICITED BY THE WEST. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME WORDING MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE DRAFT UNILATERAL WESTERN STATEMENT REFLECTING WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS VIS- A- VIS HUNGARY. THE US REP SAID THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION WAS THAT IT MIGHT ADD UNWANTED PROBLEMS TO THE FORMULATION. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT THESE INTERESTS WOULD BE TO RESERVE, IN AS BROADLY- PHRASED STATEMENT AS POSSIBLE, THE RIGHT TO RAISE THE MATTER IN THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

13. THE UK REP SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE AFTERNOON'S DISCUSSION HAD BEEN QUITE USEFUL. HE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE WAY IN WHICH THE DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS OPENED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF HUNGARY TAKING PART IN SOME MEASURES AND NOT OTHERS. HE ALSO THOUGHT VALUABLE THE CONCEPT THAT HUNGARY COULD POSSIBLY AND EVENTUALLY END UP IN A THIRD CATEGORY, NEITHER A FLANK NOR A DIRECT PARTICIPANT IN THE TALKS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS APPEARED TO BE STRICTLY IN KEEPING WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE NAC GUIDANCE. HE AGREED WITH THE US REP THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE BROADER AND MORE VALUABLE THAN A POSSIBLY MORE LIMITED NONCIRCUMVENTION APPROACH. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD HEARD SOME TALK RECENTLY THAT THE UK ALL-19 APPROACH HAD BEEN BURIED. HE ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED HOW DIFFICULT AND PROLONGED ANY NAC DISCUSSION OF THIS UK PROPOSAL WOULD BE.

14. THE UK REP HAD ONLY ONE QUESTION WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT UNILATERAL HUNGARIAN STATEMENT, AND THAT WAS WHETHER THERE WAS MORE THAN MET THE EYE IN THE CLAUSE WHICH SPECIFIED THAT " PROVIDED THE CONDITIONS FOR DOING SO ARE FAVORABLE," HUNGARY MAY DECIDE TO JOIN THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. THE US REP RESPONDED THAT SUCH A CLAUSE WOULD BE NECESSARY TO WIN HUNGARIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT;. IT COULD BE TAKEN TO REFER TO ALL THE CONDITIONS THE HUNGARIANS MIGHT ASK FOR IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MIGHT CONCERN THEIR INCLUSION. THE US REP ALSO NOTED THAT THE REAL POINT WAS FOR THE WEST TO PURSUE LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET ACTIONS VIS- A- VIS ITS PRESENCE IN HUNGARY AND IT MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IN AN AGREEMENT TO WHICH THE SOVIETS BUT NOT THE HUNGARIANS WERE A PARTY.

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ALL OTHER MBFR CAPITALS BY POUCH

FROM US REP MBFR

15. THE UK REP NOTED THAT THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, IF DISCUSSION OF UNILATERAL STATEMENTS PROGRESSED WITH THE EAST, NOT TO LET THE IMPACT OF SUCH STATEMENTS BE UNDERMINED ELSEWHERE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE THOUGHT THAT LOOSELY WORDED COOPTION OR ENLARGEMENT FORMULA WOULD UNDERCUT ALL THE GOOD DONE IN UNILATERAL STATEMENTS. THE US REP NOTED THAT A COOPTION FORMULA WHICH LEFT THE INITIATIVE WHOLLY TO THE STATE TO BE COOPTED WOULD CERTAINLY VITIATE THE EFFECT OF THE UNILATERAL STATEMENTS. ONE HAD TO ACCEPT, HOWEVER, THAT PARTICIPATION IN A DIRECT STATUS WAS IN REALITY THE FINAL DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. THE IMPORTANT THING WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, AND THEN THE STATE WHICH IS PROPOSED FOR COOPTION WOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF

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TURNING DOWN THE INVITATION.

16. THE FRG REP AGREED THAT THE DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENTS WERE WELL WITHIN CURRENT NAC GUIDANCE. THE GROUP SHOULD HOWEVER EXAMINE TACTICS OTHER THAN INCLUSION OF SUCH STATEMENTS IN THE PROCEDURES PAPER. FOR EXAMPLE, COULD THE STATEMENTS BE MADE FOR THE RECORD. IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE WESTERN EMISSARIES TO KNOW HOW MUCH FLEXIBILITY THEY MIGHT HAVE IN PURSUING THIS APPROACH TO ABEYANCE. THE NETHERLANDS REP NOTED WITH APPROVAL THE VARIOUS COMMENTS CONCERNING THE UNILATERAL STATEMENT APPROACH, SAYING THAT IT WAS WITHIN THE NAC INTENT TO OBTAIN A JURIDICAL BASIS FOR GETTING HUNGARY INTO FUTURE AGREEMENTS. THE CANADIAN REP ASKED WHETHER READING UNILATERAL STATEMENTS INTO THE RECORD WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A RECORD. THE US REP SAID THAT IN ANY CASE THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE APPROACH WOULD BE TO INCLUDE THE STATEMENTS IN THE TEXT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE OUTCOME ON PARTICIPATION MIGHT ALSO BE RECORDED IN SOME FASHION IN A COMMUNIQUE.

17. THE FRG REP, NOTING THAT MANY EASTERN REPS WERE ASKING ABOUT AN EASTER RECESS, SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIES THINK OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT THE LINE THEY SHOULD TAKE AT NEXT WEEK'S RECEPTION. THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE GROUP FOR 1030 ON 26 MARCH AT THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY. HUMES

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Review Comment: n/a
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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971230
Subject: AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 23, 1973 ALL OTHER MBFR CAPITALS BY POUCH FROM US REP MBFR
TAGS: PARM
To: LONDON
MBFR
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

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